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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY China
 SUBJECT Political - Counterrevolutionary suppression
 HOW PUBLISHED Semimonthly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Peiping
 DATE PUBLISHED 20 Apr 1951
 LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951
 DATE DIST. 6 Nov 1951
 NO. OF PAGES 4
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Shih-shih Shou-ts'e (Handbook of Current Events), No 13, 1951.

TWO CHINESE WRITERS DISCUSS
CAMPAIGN TO SUPPRESS COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

The 20 April 1951 issue of the Peiping semimonthly periodical, Shih-shih Shou-ts'e contained two articles dealing with the suppression of counterrevolutionaries. Ma Huan-jen (馬煥仁) presented the problems encountered in the program for the suppression of counterrevolutionary elements, while Meng Sheng (孟生) discussed aspects of launching a propaganda campaign for such a program.

THOROUGHLY ERADICATING COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS

Ma Huan-jen

Today, the Chinese people are engaged in the great tasks of fighting the US, giving aid to Korea, pursuing a course of land reform, and eliminating counterrevolutionary elements. The latter is an undertaking of the greatest importance.

Based on an analysis of the cases uncovered by the people's agents, counterrevolutionary elements can be divided into four categories of offenders: (1) special agents who, under various disguises and covers infiltrated, various organizations, (2) bandits or the so-called mainland guerrillas, (3) leaders of reactionary religious sects, and (4) corrupt landlords or evil heads of feudal secret societies. These counterrevolutionary elements must be eradicated because they are tools of the US and Chiang Kai-shek who are trying to sabotage us, overthrow our government, and restore themselves to power.

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To suppress the counterrevolutionary movement is the responsibility of both the government and the individual citizen. Therefore, every citizen must have a thorough understanding of the problems of eliminating counterrevolutionary elements.

Some people contend that death for counterrevolutionaries is justifiable; however, they think that "reindoctrination" is preferable to many executions. It has always been the policy of the Central People's Government to enforce suppression, but, at the same time, to adopt a policy of leniency. It is permissible to be lenient to those offenders who have not committed serious crimes, who have confessed sincerely and redeemed their sins by positive action. But it is absolutely imperative to be inexorably severe to the prime offenders and unyielding criminals.

Some people are worried that the measures of suppressing the counterrevolutionaries may involve the innocent. Though they are sincere, it is not necessary to be worried about this, for, before executing the counterrevolutionaries, the people's governments on all levels conduct thorough investigations and base indictments on substantial evidence and witnesses. Evidence leading to the arrests and convictions of leading counterrevolutionaries has been published in the press and government notices, or displayed in exhibitions. All of those convicted deserved the punishment they received. Officials in charge of suppressing and punishing the counterrevolutionaries observe strict discipline so that they can single out the right person and not involve anybody else.

There are others who fear that severe measures against counterrevolutionaries may force people to go into hiding. Such concern is also unnecessary, because only the most rigorous measures can effectively challenge and stop the counterrevolutionaries and also create a favorable situation to win over those who sincerely desire to reform themselves.

Some people believe, from early experiences and partial knowledge, that their relatives or friends who were sentenced or executed were completely innocent. The fact is, there are complete and accurate cases against all counterrevolutionaries executed in the past. It is the nature of a counterrevolutionary to behave deceptively and to pretend to be a good fellow in an attempt to manipulate his friendships to escape punishment.

Some are worried about being involved because they either had done something wrong to the people, an action for which they now repent, or had connections with certain counterrevolutionaries in the past. If they now serve honestly and stand firmly with the people, they need not worry, for the Central People's Government can clarify any issue through investigation.

Since the execution of a number of counterrevolutionaries in various areas, and since the people are becoming more alert politically, the wave of counterrevolution is subsiding. However, counterrevolutionary activities still exist and in some places prevailing measures are not effective enough to cope with them. Therefore, we cannot be complacent and completely off guard. The nearer the counterrevolutionaries approach final extinction, the more desperately they struggle. People throughout the nation must not relax, but must maintain constant vigilance to wipe out completely all counterrevolutionaries.

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LAUNCHING A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON SUPPRESSION OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

Meng Sheng

The parades in Peiping and Tientsin on the occasion of the public conviction and punishment of counterrevolutionaries indicate that people from all circles eagerly expect and support enthusiastically the campaign against counterrevolution. If such a campaign is reinforced by effective propaganda, it will become a vigorous mass movement which will deal deadly blows to counterrevolution and strengthen the people's dictatorship.

The features of a propaganda campaign against counterrevolution consist of the following points: (1) exposing the sin of counterrevolution and pointing out the righteousness and necessity of a campaign against it, (2) teaching and explaining the policies to the people, especially the combined spirit of leniency and severity embodied in the Regulations for the Punishment of Counterrevolutionaries, and (3) inspiring and encouraging the masses to participate in various campaigns against counterrevolution.

Producing counterrevolutionary propaganda is a task of great importance. It requires strong leadership and the mobilization of all available forces. Experiences in Peiping and Tientsin show that it is absolutely essential for government administrators to assume the leadership. Cultural, educational, and security departments must take charge of the whole undertaking, and people from all democratic parties and people's organizations must participate to make the propaganda campaign successful. Propaganda methods should be greatly varied. The following techniques have proved effective and should be adopted at present:

To enforce the Regulations for the Punishment of Counterrevolutionaries, delegates from all circles should be called to meetings in which all participants will discuss the regulations in relation to actual conditions and will draft resolutions accordingly. Before the meeting, problems to be discussed should be printed and made available to the delegates, and small exhibitions should be set up if it is deemed practicable. The number of participants in the meeting should be kept small enough to give everyone an opportunity to talk and to examine the issues thoroughly. Within their respective circles the individual delegates should also hold meetings for the same purposes patterned along the same lines.

In areas where counterrevolutionary activity is strong, the local authorities should assemble the masses in accusation meetings, to which counterrevolutionaries may be brought to face the charges of their victims. At these meetings, the presiding government representatives should render final decisions and pronounce sentences to prove that the government is in full support of the people and to urge all the people to participate in driving out the counterrevolutionaries.

Before the local community meetings, members of local security agencies should assume the responsibility of teaching and explaining methods of coping with counterrevolutionaries to the residents in their districts. After intensive preparation, local community meetings should be held and everyone should be led to recognize that it is in his own interest to wipe out the counterrevolutionaries.

The heads of local public security bureaus should speak on the problems of coping with counterrevolution at mass and cadre meetings and explain to the audience any specific local problems. Mass protest and punishment meetings should be reported to the people through the radio network, to which the people should be encouraged to listen.

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Newspapers and exhibits have been used successfully and their use must be further expanded in the propaganda campaign on the suppression of counterrevolutionaries. The press should publish articles revealing the crimes committed by counterrevolutionaries and public exhibitions should tell the masses the meaning of the campaign against counterrevolution.

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